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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Carson Meets with President Bush  
Small, Bipartisan House Coalition Discusses Iraqi Policy***

Washington, D.C. --

Second District Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) joined with a small, bipartisan group of House colleagues at the White House to discuss with President Bush the ongoing threat Iraq poses to the security of the United States and the world. Congressman Carson and his fellow House members discussed with the President a resolution pending before Congress to authorize the administration to take appropriate measures to ensure the Iraqi regime complies with mandates from the United Nations.

"The meeting we had with President Bush today was very productive," Congressman Brad Carson said. "The current political climate in Washington has poisoned the debate surrounding this very serious situation our nation and the world faces. Saddam Hussein is a unique menace, and we must take action to prevent him from continuing his perverse attempts to dominate the Middle East. Saddam Hussein has shown no regard for the sanctity of human life, the rule of law, or the well being of the Iraqi people. His desire to obtain nuclear and biological weapons is well known, and he has demonstrated ruthless ambition in terrorizing the region."

In his speech following the meeting with House members, President Bush commented "Democrats and Republicans refuse to live in a future of fear," and the United States "will soon speak with one voice."

At the White House, Congressman Carson praised President Bush for his decision to speak before the United Nation's General Assembly and solicit international support.

"I am confident the international community will realize, when they are presented with the latest intelligence reports, the merits of our case against Saddam Hussein. We must hold the Iraqi regime accountable to the U.N. resolutions, and to prevent future threats to our nation's security and to the stability of the Middle East. The links between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda are becoming more clear and substantial, and it is incumbent upon our government to act."

Congressman Carson and the other House members were asked by administration officials to meet with the President because of their willingness put aside political rhetoric and discuss the situation objectively. This bipartisan group of House members is working closely with the White House to draft a Congressional resolution authorizing appropriate measures be taken in dealing with Iraq.

“It is vital members of Congress and the administration push aside political rhetoric and approach this matter responsibly,” Congressman Carson said. “I look forward to continuing to work with President Bush and leaders in Congress to develop a resolution that preserves Congress’ role in expressing the American people’s view, but while also providing the President with the flexibility to tackle this situation.

“While military action should be a last result, an authorization of force is necessary to demonstrate to Saddam Hussein, and the international community, we are fully committed in demanding full compliance with the U.N. resolutions and in protecting our national security.”

- 30 -

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